

GAO

United States
General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

OCA 1757-88

National Security and
International Affairs Division

OCA FILE GAO

May 24, 1988

The Honorable William H. Webster, Director
Central Intelligence Agency

Attention: Director, Office of Legislative
Liaison

Dear Mr. Webster:

The General Accounting Office, has been requested to undertake a study of Panamanian leader Gen. Manuel Noriega's alleged drug activities. The study, under code 472165, will examine (1) selected aspects of U.S.-Panamanian relations over the past 20 years, (2) the type of information about Noriega developed by various intelligence and law-enforcement agencies, (3) the extent to which this information reached foreign policy decision-makers, and (4) the role that such information played in decisions on U.S. foreign policy.

This work will be performed under the direction of Nancy R. Kingsbury, Associate Director by Mr. Donald L. Patton, Group Director; Mr. James O. Benone, Evaluator-in-Charge; and Mr. Jon Chasson; of our Foreign Economic Assistance Group.

The work will be conducted in Washington at the Department of State, the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice, and other federal agencies.

We would like to meet with Agency representatives to discuss these issues and obtain the Agency's perspective on them. We appreciate any assistance you can provide to our staff in this regard. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Patton or Mr. Benone at 275-5790.

Sincerely yours,



Frank C. Conahan
Assistant Comptroller General